cdbb
Centre for Digital Built Britain

Housing Digital Built Britain Network

Benefits to house builders, planners, local and central government, mortgage providers, warranty providers, home owners and tenants

Summary

The aims of the Housing Networks were:

1. To propose the capabilities needed for the UK to deliver and benefit from digital built Britain and identify the enabling research to deliver those capabilities;

2. To describe the state of the art and leading-edge practice today, and;

3. To build communities of people interested and able to participate in future research, demonstrator and pilot projects.

The Network identified the four following broad capabilities as priority:

1. Using digital innovations to meet the housing and care challenges of an ageing population.

2. Developing digital innovation and better use of data in the planning system.

3. Digitising housing production through off-site housing manufacture.

4. Ensuring better housing governance, maintenance and management through use of data and digital technologies.
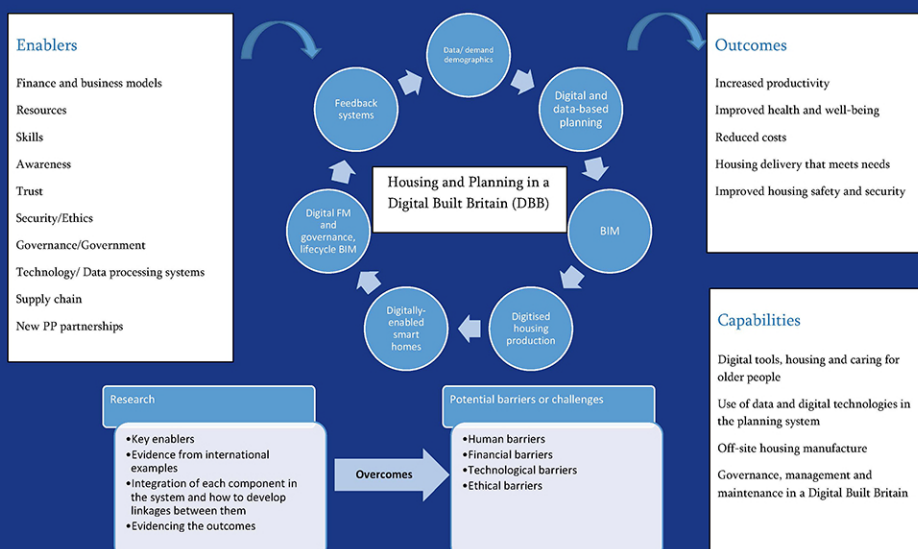
Impact and Value

Housing sits at the heart of many wider social issues, and it will sit at the heart of the development of a Digital Built Britain (DBB). Delivering a DBB is not simply about technological solutions to make supply and maintenance more efficient, it is also about understanding how those solutions and efficiency gains interact with wider social policy issues to address UK housing inequalities.

Long-term Vision

The long term vision is for sustainable, safe, affordable housing to be delivered for all households in a digital built Britain.

Key Findings

Next Steps/Further Work

The Housing Network identified that further research is needed:

• On the interrelationships between housing demand, planning, off-site housing, management and the digital agenda.

• To develop an evidence base of the benefits of digital innovation and investment.

• To understand the current market, identify those organisations investing in digital innovation, understand their innovations and scale, their supply chains and the use of data and business models.

• To improve data security and ethics.

• New forms of data collection and digital innovations are a governance challenge in housing and need further consideration.

• A cross-cutting area for further research is the identification of inequalities and potential unintended consequences of digital innovation.

• Understanding the human barriers. There are clearly a wide range of non-digital barriers to the implementation of digital innovation. These include issues of trust, awareness, skills, education and training and resources. Further research would help to identify how to overcome such challenges to ensure that the benefits of digital innovation in housing are realised.

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